



Howard County Council

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District 4
Jennifer Terrasa, Vice Chairperson
District 3
Calvin Ball
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Greg Fox
District 5
Courtney Watson
District 1

Minutes Approved 05/18/09 Budget Work Sessions May 8, 2009

Chairperson Mary Kay Sigaty called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. on May 8, 2009, in the C. Vernon Gray Room, 8930 Stanford Boulevard, Columbia, MD.

Members Present: Calvin Ball, Greg Fox, Mary Kay Sigaty, Jennifer Terrasa (arrived 9:13 a.m.)
Courtney Watson

The Council discussed proposed capital and operating budgets with department representatives, as follows. Ray Wacks, Budget Director, participated in the discussion of all budgets.

Board of Education: Frank Aquino, Chairman, Ellen Flynn Giles, Vice Chairman, Allen Dyer, Sandra French and Dr. Sidney Cousin

Dr. Cousin summarized a power point presentation of the FY2010 status report for operating and capital budgets. The Board of Education hopes to restore \$10.7 million in funding for deferred maintenance (\$7.7 million), Technology (\$2.0 million) and planning of systemic projects (\$1.0 million). The funding sources are additional state money (\$2.0 million), transfers from existing projects (\$4.0 million) and an additional \$4.7 million to be provided by the County. Staff summarized a system wide needs assessment. Technology is identified as a critical need. The Executive's budget only pays existing leases; accordingly, the additional State funding would be used for that purpose. There was a discussion of other potential sources of funds: placeholders, changed projections, favorable bids, and out-year planning dollars. There was also mention of the budgetary implications of the pending APFO chart and redistricting. The regulations for LEED certification were also reviewed. Staff reviewed stimulus funding in the operating budget (dedicated to special education) and the potential for recurring liability. Mr. Wacks discussed the implications of OPEB for the future.

The work session was temporarily suspended at 10:53a.m. and reconvened at 1:02p.m.

Library – Valerie Gross

Ms. Gross summarized the budget highlights. Under a 1.9% cut, the branches will open an hour later. The furlough days are July 3, September 28, November 27 and December 31. For those days, the Central Library will remain open with staffing by its personnel and administration

representatives. Ms. Gross also discussed the planned community sessions for the Miller Library project. The design considers the entire campus, including the Senior Center. The increase in the projections for the Savage branch reflects a design that includes a parking garage.

The work session was temporarily suspended at 1:34p.m.and reconvened at 2:04 p.m.

Howard Community College - Dr. Kathleen Hetherington, Lynn Coleman

The representatives summarized written documentation in response to the testimony from Dr. Schumacher and Ms. Hudson at the public hearing. There was a comparison of tuition and fees and administrative staff for Maryland Community Colleges. There was also a discussion of Cash Balances and Belmont Expenses. Finally, there was a discussion of the procedures for transfers of surplus and transfers between capital and operating. The Council requested further clarification regarding anticipated and actual funding of Belmont.

The work session was adjourned at 2:45p.m.